

REMARKS

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that dependent claims 15-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. These claims are dependent on independent claims 1, 9 and 10, respectively.

Each of the dependent claims 15-17 has been canceled, and its limitation inserted by Amendment into the independent claims 1, 9 and 10, respectively.

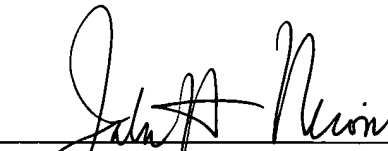
Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the application now is in condition for allowance with **claims 1-14**; however, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to **call the undersigned attorney** to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional fees

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO. 09/759,223

under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or § 1.17 necessary to keep this application pending in the Patent and
Trademark Office or credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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23373

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